

Narrator Questionnaire

(Type all information)

Name Bernice Phonnice Adams

Maiden Name Bernice Autry

Address Camilla Retirement Home, Broad St., Camilla, Ga. 31730

Phone Number 912-336-9621

Date of Birth June 12, 1908

Birthplace Hinsonton, Georgia

Place of Residence (city or county and state), 1920s-1940s. Continue on reverse.

1 Hinsonton, Ga., 1920-1925.

5. _____, 19__-19__.

2 Cotton, Georgia, 1925-1928.

6. _____, 19__-19__.

3 Ty, Ty, Georgia, 1928-1931.

7. _____, 19__-19__.

4 Hinsonton, Georgia, 1931-1933.

8. _____, 19__-19__.

Family and/or individual occupations, 1920s-1940s.

Marion Autry (father) owned a cotton gin, saw mill, and grist mill.

Stetson Adams (husband) was a teacher, principal, school superintendent,

worked at a grocery store, and sold cookware.

Bernice Adams worked at an alterations store and Kahn's.

Interview Contents

(Type all information)

NARRATOR'S NAME Bernice Adams

TAPE NUMBER 1

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TIME (minutes & seconds)	SUBJECTS
<u>0:00 to 0:15</u>	<u>1. Introduction</u>
<u>0:15 to 2:40</u>	<u>2. Family Background</u>
<u>2:40 to 4:10</u>	<u>3. Marriage</u>
<u>4:10 to 5:10</u>	<u>4. Flat tires in Ty, Ty, Georgia</u>
<u>5:10 to 6:35</u>	<u>5. Husband's occupation- teacher, grocery clerk</u>
<u>6:35 to 7:40</u>	<u>6. Pie on Sunday</u>
<u>7:40 to 7:55</u>	<u>7. Teacher's salary</u>
<u>7:55 to 8:35</u>	<u>8. Cutting cardboard</u>
<u>8:35 to 9:55</u>	<u>9. Credit at the local store</u>
<u>9:55 to 10:40</u>	<u>10. Rooming House</u>
<u>10:40 to 16:15</u>	<u>11. Mrs. Adams' appendix operation</u>
<u>16:15 to 22:15</u>	<u>12. The move to Hinsonton from Ty, Ty</u>
<u>22:15 to 24:55</u>	<u>13. Mrs. Adams' goes to work</u>
<u>24:55 to 25:25</u>	<u>14. Electricity in the country</u>
<u>25:25 to 31:10</u>	<u>15. Making clothes</u>

Interview Contents

(Type all information)

NARRATOR'S NAME Bernice Adams

TAPE NUMBER 1

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TIME (minutes & seconds)	SUBJECTS
<u>31:10</u> to <u>36:05</u>	<u>1. Attitudes towards Roosevelt</u>
<u>36:05</u> to <u>44:45</u>	<u>2. Community of Hinsonton and the train</u>
<u>44:45</u> to <u>50:45</u>	<u>3. Church and school attendance</u>
<u>50:45</u> to <u>52:00</u>	<u>4. Death of Roosevelt</u>
<u>52:00</u> to <u>56:25</u>	<u>5. Coming out of the Depression- changing attitudes</u>
<u>56:25</u> to <u>57:55</u>	<u>6. Rumors about Roosevelt</u>
<u>57:55</u> to <u>60:00</u>	<u>7. Conclusion</u>
_____ to _____	<u>8.</u>
_____ to _____	<u>9.</u>
_____ to _____	<u>10.</u>
_____ to _____	<u>11.</u>
_____ to _____	<u>12.</u>
_____ to _____	<u>13.</u>
_____ to _____	<u>14.</u>
_____ to _____	<u>15.</u>

Valdosta State University

Valdosta, Georgia

I hereby give without condition the tape recordings and their contents as listed below to Valdosta State University as a donation for such scholarly and educational purposes as the university shall determine.

(Type all information except signatures)

Bernice Autry Adams
Name of Narrator

Bernice Autry Adams
Signature of Narrator

Camilla Retirement Home, Broad St., Camilla, Ga. 31730
Address of Narrator

Jana Godwin
Name of Interviewer

Jana Godwin
Signature of Interviewer

Moore St. Apartments, 306 E. Moore St., Valdosta, Georgia 31602
Address of Interviewer

April 24, 1994
Date of Agreement

May 15, 1994
Date of Interview

Reminiscences of the above named narrator on life in Georgia during the Depression

David Williams History Papers UA 23-20-B1-F-001

Name Bernice Kutry, d. 12/15

Interview Date 05-5-1994

Consent Form yes

Photographs yes

Narrator Questionnaire yes

Interview Contents yes

Transcript yes - 2 copies

VHS Tape Available NO

VHS Tape Digitized _____

Cassette Tape Available yes

Cassette Tape Digitized _____

Additional Information:

(Include any notes you would like to make here.)

David Williams History Papers

Person Interviewed Berice Autrey Adams

Student's Name Jana Godwin

Interview Date 05-15-1994

Tape/Folder Number B1-F-001 -> No 4+15

Collection Number: UA 23-20 - B1-F-001

People in

Transcript Marion Adams; Emma Johnson; J. S. Autrey;
Stetson Adams; Wendell Adams; Eben Autrey; C. A. Harrell;
Mary Nettie; Malissa Lewette; Honey Lewette; Gabrielle (Gair)
Harrell; Emily Hollis; F. S. Ransford; Dawson Autrey; Dennis
Autrey - J. L. Ford - I. A. Bush - Edwin & Estelle Barber; James L. McCallister

Subjects/Key Words in

Transcript Ty, Ty - Cotton Consolidated School - 1911 - 1912 -
Hinsonton - Cotton - Thompson - M. Higdon - Rose Show -
Porter (depression) - 1911 - 1912 - Pelham - The Little White
House - Naam Springs - Marquette Hotel (Pelham) - Surfer County -
Sale City - Schools - Wagon of - 1911 - 1912 - 1913

Brief

Summary Living conditions during Depression - Attitudes
and - School - Church -
Depression - Change after Depression

Interviewer: The following is an interview with Bernice Autry Adams. The interview is being conducted at the Camilla Retirement Home, Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia on May 22, 1994. Mrs. Adams, before we talk about your experiences during the Great Depression, can I get some basic information about you?

Narrator: And that is...

Interviewer: Okay, could you tell me where you were born, your parents.

Narrator: (clears throat) I, my parents were Marion Autry and Emma Johnson. They married in a little church in Sumter County, and my father taught school for several years and my mother was just a housewife. They are the parents, they were the parents of six children and I was fortunate enough to be the last. My brother J.E. Autry was eight years old when I was born, so I had alot of catering my way and...

Interviewer: What was the exact date of your birth and your mother's maiden name?

Narrator: My birthday was June the twelfth, nineteen hundred and eight. My mother was Emma Johnson.

Interviewer: Mrs. Adams, can you tell me when you were married?

Narrator: I was married the ninth of August...

Interviewer: I think it was 1925, wasn't it?

Narrator: I believe (laughter). I hate to say that. I ought to have looked it up.

Interviewer: That's right, it was 1925. Who was, what was your husband's name?

Narrator: Stetson Adams. He had been my school superintendent. I had known him a year and one of my cousins rode with us and we went to Harmony Church which is about three miles away from Hinsonton where I was born and reared and (clears throat) she was our only (laughs) witness, but we knew the minister real well both of us did and he came out to the car. Now do you want me to say it was raining (laughs)? But he stood by the car and we went through the marriage ceremony sitting in the car with our, my attendant right with us.

Interviewer: (laughs) Yes ma'am, okay could you tell me when, you know, the Depression began ya'll were in Ty, Ty I

believe, Ty, Ty, Georgia in about the 1929's. Could you tell me about your occupation, your husband's occupation, at that time and how you began to feel the threat of the Depression?

Narrator: Well, the tires wore out on our car and we wanted to come home occasionally and we seldom made the trip here and back without at least one flat tire and our clothes were rather shabby and Stetson took to work at night and sell wherever cookware.

Interviewer: Mrs. Adams, wasn't your husband a teacher at this time and working in a grocery store?

Narrator: He was superintendent of the city school in Ty, Ty and (clears throat) to supplement our living or livelihood he would work on Saturdays and occasionally there would be something that we, I would be invited to like taking my child and going with friends to a pool over in Sylvester, Georgia and in times like that Stetson, you know, worked at the grocery store and this is what I wanted to bring out. When they paid us, me, at the grocery when they were closing on Saturday night, I took roast beef or beef roast and fresh vegetables and anything that I might be out of in my kitchen for my pay, I didn't collect any money.

Interviewer: So then you got food in exchange for your work?

Narrator: Yes.

Interviewer: So you could cook the roast on Sunday.

Narrator: And this colored girl that would babysit for me when I had to have somebody, she would come in and when Sunday School was over at church we would take Wendell home so he wouldn't have to sit through the service and she would look after my child and cook us lunch and have it ready when service, church, was over and I hate to say this but, Wendell would just, she loved him to death and he did her and he'd say "You going to cook us a chocolate pie today, aren't you?" and she'd cook. He loved it better than anything in the world.

Interviewer: (laughs)

Narrator: He'd meet us and say we going to have chocolate pie for dinner, I didn't see it (laughs).

Interviewer: Yes ma'am. What could you tell me about Mr. Adams' salary as being a teacher? Did he get a check?

Narrator: He was paid by check for the county board of education, of course, came through the city but to show you how bad

conditions were, I cut cardboard and put into Stetson's shoes that he wore to school to keep his foot off the bare ground and of course, Wendell, of course being with me all the time his shoes weren't worn that much and mine, I didn't wear mine like that, but I cut a heap of cardboard.

Interviewer: What about the man at the store told you about credit. Didn't he tell you something?

Narrator: He told us that as long as he had what we needed we didn't need to worry until as long as he had it we could get it and we were not the only ones of course, but we never had had it that hard before.

Interviewer: Do you remember the name of that store?

Narrator: Moore, M-O-O-R-E 'S, Moore's Clothing Store.

Interviewer: In Ty, Ty, is that where that store was?

Narrator: He was just the nicest old man that owned it, he had a clerk or two in there but, he told them that anything that was in stock that we needed to let us have it.

Interviewer: Cause the times were so rough.

Narrator: Right, and an old widower, the mother of the only doctor's wife in town, there were others that roomed in this rooming house, but we had the choice place because we had this three year old child.

Interviewer: That was Wendell.

Narrator: And everybody that had rooms, there was upstairs too, they just loved him to death and Mr. Moore, Mr. Pickett, now that I'm getting them all mixed up, Mr. Pickett would tell us at various times we didn't have to pay him any rent but he didn't want the others to know it cause, but he especially liked Stetson. He was a well educated man, his daughter was the doctor's wife right there next door and he had a colored woman that fixed his meals and tended to his apartment in the same house where we were. But alot of time he would tell us, tell Stetson, that that was alright, not to worry about any rent or board whatever rent I reckon, because he realized how hard the times were for somebody working on a salary.

Interviewer: Someone, was it you or Mr. Adams that had the appendix operation?

Narrator: It was me.

Interviewer: During this time?

Narrator: We did not know how on earth we could manage, but Stetson went to the bank in Tifton and they were happy to loan him money and I entered the hospital in Albany, Georgia and the local president of the bank in Ty, Ty took his wife took us to the, Stetson went with me to the hospital and of course they were taking me to a room and he told them the situation that he was teaching and the teachers were not getting their salaries regularly and they told him in the hospital that was fine, it was okay as long as we needed help they were there to give it. So I had an appendectomy and it was a bad job because I had neglected it and I kept my side frozen so long because we didn't have any money and I stayed in the hospital ten days and then I went home and this same trustee's wife came and carried me home in her new Buick(laughter). She carried me to the hospital...

Interviewer: And back.

Narrator: I wouldn't, she brought a overnight bag when she came to take me over there I was little and slim like you, pretty, and she brought several of her nighties and they were so pretty and negligees and some toothpaste and that bag was full of goodies, you know, that she knew I'd need.

Interviewer: Was she giving them to you or...

Narrator: And I told her that maybe I could pay her back sometime and she said you don't owe me a thing, your my best friend and I'd do anything I could to help you and she knew how hard we were having it, the teachers, all of them, you know, so she went back and got me when they dismissed me cause see we had a little Ford coupe with a little visor across the front and she knew that I would have to lie down and they took me out and laid and propped me in the backseat of her car and she and Stetson rode in the front seat and(sigh) he got somebody that was uptown at the drugstore to go and help him take me out of the car and carry me into the house and I was in bed there about three weeks. Couldn't cool my temperature, it wouldn't stay down. I had such a infection from that but when my friend Ellen Culbreath came one afternoon and I told her to take her bags and things that I didn't use them. But she was determined that I would have something and she gave me a couple of gowns and all that stuff like toothpaste and everything. She left it there and she said if I needed anything else just let her know and(clears throat) the people were just so nice to us and I think it, one reason...

Interviewer: Understanding, kind of...

Narrator: Yes, and Stetson taught a Sunday school class and all

that class just poured out their generosity on us and there were other people that was without and doing without the same as we were but then the majority of them owned their own homes and businesses. And this Mrs. Culbreath, Ellen Culbreath had took me to the hospital, her husband was a big turpentine, he had turpentine trees all around that were being, what do you call it?

Interviewer: Dripped maybe.

Narrator: Yes.

Interviewer: Or something like that(laughs).

Narrator: So that the turpentine would flow into the, and they had plenty of money. He had that one and he had another one in Valdosta and she was just, why she liked me I never understood, but she did.

Interviewer: How long did ya'll end up living in Ty, Ty?

Narrator: Three years.

Interviewer: Three years

Narrator: And he was re-elected for the fourth year but a committee from Cotton Consolidated School in Mitchell County came and literally begged him to come to Cotton that they knew what kind of principal he was and the good work he had done and it was to good for us...

Interviewer: To pass up?

Narrator: Yes, that's right.

Interviewer: So that was probably about what, 1932, or around there that ya'll moved to Cotton?

Narrator: Moved to Hinsonton(laughs).

Interviewer: To Hinsonton.

Narrator: And when my uncle and aunt moved to Florida, their house was for rent and we rented it a year or two and we finally bought it and lived in it sixty years.

Interviewer: Did you? When you first moved to Hinsonton, though, didn't you live somewhere else, didn't you?

Narrator: Well, we lived in Cotton. That's where Stetson was principal when we married and so we lived in Cotton three years until, two years, until he accepted this offer to come to Ty, Ty, Georgia and it was such a good offer in that day so we had this big apartment, four rooms,

kitchen, dining room, and two bedrooms. One of the bedrooms was used for a living room too, and nobody could have ever been more royally received than we were. People that we did not even know, of course, came to welcome us and the ladies brought flowers and they brought can goodies out of their, that they had put up and you know, and just...

Interviewer: Everybody was effected, but everybody still tried to help others out.

Narrator: Right and most everybody in Ty, Ty, there were poor people too, but most all of them were landowners and farmers and C.A. Harrell, we had after we decided we were going to come to Cotton, come back to Hinsonton, Cotton school, my father and Stetson built a little store in Hinsonton and so we were going to come back home cause Stetson had the offer to go to Cotton, see to teach, and so we moved our belongings to Hinsonton in the house, that is the Johnson home right now.

Interviewer: Didn't you live with your mother at first, though?

Narrator: Yes, I need to say that, we lived, we kept our furniture and everything stored up until there was a vacant house or somewhere we could, there wasn't anyplace in Cotton and my uncle's house was the only one made available and so he moved over to the Johnson house as you know it now, and Aunt Florence and Dick and Mary, Mary Nettie, lived there until he decided to sell the house that we were living in, his home, and they were going to South Florida.

Interviewer: So, when you were living in your mother's house though before you moved into your last home, the home that you lived in for so long, who all was living in that house with you?

Narrator: In my family home?

Interviewer: Yes.

Narrator: Nobody but my mother and my father and my sister, Malissa Leverette and cause papa had a new chimney put on the other end of that thing up yonder(laughs). You can't see it with the trees there now, but he said he wouldn't going to have Wendell sleeping in the cold. So they fixed that for us a bedroom and Wendell and Henry Leverette, my brother-in-law, built the chimney and the fireplace. We stayed there until uncle Ben's house was vacant.

Interviewer: And you rented it first right, well did Mr. Adams, he worked at a sawmill, your father had a sawmill.

Narrator: Yes and Stetson in the summer or when he'd have a, course he went to summer school every year till he got his degree and he would work at the sawmill with the fellows to tied us over through the summer you know.

Interviewer: Did teachers get paid during the summer then?

Narrator: No!

Interviewer: They didn't get paid back then.

Narrator: No ma'am and course after we settled there and Wendell was getting bigger and going to school and my sister and my mother would take care of him when he got home from school and I worked in Pelham at a dress shop and I did, helped do alterations on the clothes that were sold.

Interviewer: What was the name of that, do you remember the name of that store?

Narrator: I remember the name, I don't know whether I can spell it or not, uh Portivient.

Interviewer: You worked in the there, at the store?

Narrator: My best friend had charge of the shop in the back where they did the alterations and she's the one that got me the job because she knew that I could do it and she was an expert at all of it, Emily Hollis, and I worked there as things got better for us. I didn't work anywhere really and, but it was quite a spell, I did work a short while at the Kahn store, K-A-H-N because I remember selling shoes.

Interviewer: Yes ma'am(laughs).

Narrator: Little old black children, you know, there mother's would bring them in there and, but Jana, I think I had the good will of everybody, I didn't never know of anybody hating me or disliking me, and I tried to deal with people, you know, like I would want to be dealt with and anyway it was beginning to come around where we lived fairly decent and we bought that house.

Interviewer: What did you tell me about old man Harrell, about the electricity at this time?

Narrator: Mr. Gabrielle Harrell, we called him Gabe, everybody did, he had a farm coming into the community of Hinsonton and at the same we were getting electricity in Mitchell County for lights and cooking and he would not let the electricians or whatever come across his lands with the lines and everything.

Interviewer: He was a farmer?

Narrator: Yes, and so it made it real hard for Hinsonton Community to get electricity because they needed to cross his, some of his farmland, but anyway they made arrangements with the, I don't know who they had to for us to go around, for them to bring, go around with the lines and I don't think it was too long, maybe a year, such a matter, he decided he wanted electricity at his house.

Interviewer: (laughs)What could you tell me about the clothes. How did you get your clothes or did you make your clothes?

Narrator: This good friend Emily Hollis, she was a genius when it came to sewing and we had lot of clothes alike, maybe a different color, like we bought, I bought black pique, cotton pique, and she bought white and we made us some evening gowns to wear to the Rose Show, big dance and everything that they have, use to have, just one big one, but I thing...

Interviewer: That one in Thomasville?

Narrator: And I had the most compliments on that black dress and course I didn't weigh but a hundred and seventeen pounds and the black went to the floor. We had a pattern and people just didn't believe we made those dresses.

Interviewer: Cause it was so pretty.

Narrator: They were so pretty.

Interviewer: What about your son Wendell's clothes, you told me about one time when you made something for him, an outfit.

Narrator: When we were not able to really buy him all the clothes that I would have liked to have, but I learned to sew and my family sewed all my sisters and my mother, and this friend Emily Hollis and she loved Wendell to death. She thought he was the sweetest child in the world and she'd help me if I needed something you know, and I've got a picture of him, with a little hat cocked on the side of his head and a little topcoat that we made and made it double breasted and it's right to his knees and he's got his little head turned over one-sided. I don't remember if I've got it here or not, but he was the cutest thing and everytime that we went out anywhere, somebody would, when he would have on a coat, somebody would ask where in the world we got that darling coat, I betcha I told more people where that coat came from, because it was, with Emily's help and mine, and she had the button holder and

it had the button holes like it was on a bought garment, you know it wasn't tacky and messed up and she would have spent her last minute(laughs) helping to make it cause she loved Wendell so good.

Interviewer: What did you say you made it out of though, didn't you...

Narrator: It was, now the little pants is what I made out of a scrap, you might say, a woolen material, and I put button holes up here to button it to his blouse and it was rayon with the little long sleeves and the little Peter Pan collar and we didn't go anywhere that somebody didn't "ooh and ah" about him, the way he was dressed.

Interviewer: Didn't you actually make one outfit out of an old coat, out of your husband's coat, could you tell me about that?

Narrator: Times were so hard with us until we really got a start. Stetson had a topcoat that he had pretty well worn thin on the shoulders and up, but there was enough, you know, it went down to his knees or maybe below and I got to figuring I hated to through that coat away and I got to thinking about it and I said I can make my child a pretty coat out of that, the bottom where...

Interviewer: From the bottom of the jacket.

Narrator: And it was nothing unusual if we were in town or when we went to church, people would want to know where I found that little coat and the little pants, and the little shirt, and it was so, and I had I don't know how many people asked me about sewing some for them, but I was working with Emily at that time and I didn't have time to keep house and do all that but he looked like a little doll, he was so cute.

Interviewer: Who was the, during the Depression the President was Roosevelt. What was everyone's attitude about Roosevelt?

Narrator: See, he brought about the new deal if you remember. He wanted everybody to live good and he was the main one that brought about electricity in the country all around so the country people could have the advantages of electricity that the city people had and we just, my family, Stetson and I, others, we just loved him to death and Stetson was in Millidgeville in summer school and Wendell and I, he came and got us and we went up there to stay a couple of weeks and we just knew we'd get to see the president in person, but he had gone home. They had a chair they carried him in and they'd help him up into these steps unto the back car on the train because it was

hard to take him across where one car hooked to another one and they'd load him on the backend of the train and in his chair, he was a polo victim, you know, but we didn't get to see him, we were disappointed but we went in the Little House, the Little White House is what it was called, we went all over it with a guide of course and we saw the chair that he liked to sit in most of the time and his bed had extra fixtures about it on the count of his polo, getting in and out of bed, and the covers and the blankets and everything were just, they insisted, like it was when he had to be carried away a corpse, you know.

Interviewer: So you went and saw the house after he had died, this was afterwards?

Narrator: Yes.

Interviewer: Well, while he was in Presidency, you told me they were "cussing" Roosevelt at the time, some people got angry at Roosevelt.

Narrator: They did and for why I'll never know because he was determined to help the poorer people and I never did understand the dislike of him, but when he would be speaking to us on television, they made it so convenient that, and it was so real that you didn't realize he was a polo victim because they wouldn't take his picture when he was having to have people help him walk and then when they'd have to help him stand at the podium, he was put into place without you seeing all that taking place. They didn't want the public to feel sorry for him, you know, because he was and I tell you this may not fit in, I have a nephew Dawson Autry that had polo and he was not, not while the president was still living, but he had the privilege to go to Warm Springs and his mother Faye could not stand to live him. He was just two years old and she got a, his mother I said Faye, that's his wife, got a job in the kitchen at the Little White House to help with the meals and help do the dishes and whatever in order to be with her child.

Interviewer: He was getting therapy at Warm Springs, yes ma'am. What could you tell me about the community of Hinsonton, where there any stores in Hinsonton at this time, during the Depression?

Narrator: It was amazing how so many people came back home during the Depression and Hinsonton, four stores, had a barber shop and one of the stores had an upstairs department and it was set aside for entertainment purposes like the Woodmen of the World would have their banquets up there and we had a club in the community, men and women, that just got together and talked and sometimes it was an

oyster supper, sometimes it was fish supper, sometimes it was fried chicken, but it was a nice place for a little country town like that. There was two garages in the community and my father had a sawmill on the edge of the community, of course, and he had a mill for grinding corn into meal and we had a courthouse there, that we held elections when there was somebody locally to be and in the meantime, they hit on the idea of going to all extremes for the sweet potato and a huge building was made so they could control the heat or the cold and they hauled, people hauled the sweet potato from far and near to put it, to get it in that curing house cause it had been so cold when they'd dig a bed and put pine straw and cover it up, but the weather had gotten so extremely cold in the winter. It would spoil them. They'd freeze, the potatoes would freeze so my brother, Dennis Autry, had the keys to that potato curing house and it was heavily insulated and sealed. Wasn't any homes in Hinsonton any more warm than that place and then that place was, and don't lose sight of the fact that we had a train out of Pelham and we had a track right through Hinsonton and lot of people had to park their cars. They couldn't afford to keep them up during that Depression, but they could buy a little ticket and ride into Pelham and I had the pleasure when I was a young teenager of going with one of our girls in the community on the train to Pelham for her to buy her wedding dress and she wore a hat too. I don't know how on earth it looked, I didn't go to the wedding (laughter). But we had lunch in Sale City, now is where she bought her dress and while the train went on up and turned around to go back to Pelham, so that was quite an experience for me, but in the meantime I don't know if it was the same time the potato packing house was built, the cantaloupe became most popular. They had found out they made delicious fruit for breakfast or any time you know.

Interviewer: Like a craze for cantaloupe.

Narrator: Right and the men came to work in that packing house from far and near and they would load, put them in crates and they, some of the men stayed at the Marguerite Hotel in Pelham. They came from way out of town, you know, and of course that was the big boom to Hinsonton, drew their cantaloupes with their produce in their like that and I can't remember how many times, but the train went right through Hinsonton and the cantaloupe packing house was on one side and that big potato warehouse was on the other side and my father helped to run a cotton gin where they ginned the cotton and tied, wrapped into bails, and we had two seed houses and where they would store the cotton if they didn't have enough for as many bails and the seed would be already ginned out of the cotton and they would be stored in the other one across the road and we had a

little depot.

Interviewer: What was the size of Pelham, is bigger than Hinsonton and Cotton, so how was Pelham effected during the Depression?

Narrator: Well, Mr. J.L. Hand came there from, I can't, I think he was from Sumter County. I know that's where my daddy taught school with his sister was there. She was principal of the school and they elected him as the assistant and they, I can't remember, but anyway they built a depot and it was right, you know where my old house is now. It was right across my yard and the railroad track and there was a depot and it had two rooms, colored and white, for you to wait for the train in and it had a huge room for express stuff that was shipped in and they had an open platform that those big bales of cotton were brought in after they got them into bales at the cotton gin and there were those who stayed around the depot and to be there to help unload and to load whatever needed, you know, and this friend I told you that got her dress in Sale City, we went up there on train, it was really a treat to me(laughs).

Interviewer: You were a member of a church. What was the name of that church?

Narrator: Well, there was no church till, at first people went over to where the schoolhouse was in a pine grove, excuse me, and then they built this schoolhouse in the edge of Hinsonton, three rooms and there was...

Interviewer: Do you remember the year that they built the schoolhouse?

Narrator: No, I sure can't baby, I sure can't tell you the year.

Interviewer: That's alright.

Narrator: But, I think I was in the fifth grade when we started school in the new schoolhouse and you could not believe that there was two rooms on the front and then there was just one sticking out on the back. She taught the piano pupils and I happened to be one of them(laughs). And then, uh yes, the main thing of that, the two rooms on the front had a portable wall between them and that wall could be laid down on some blocks or whatever, and that could be used for a stage. The wall when they let it down, it was sealed too, it wouldn't no light thing, and the room would be filled with parents and children that would come to see the plays or the commencement exercises. It was just such a rarity for a little old bird like Hinsonton(laughs). Did I tell you there were two garages?

Interviewer: Yes ma'am. About the church during the Depression Era, how could you tell anything about church attendance?

Narrator: Everybody flocked to the church cause I really don't know what possessed them to except there was no where else for them to go, you know, they had to, and families would walk to the church services that lived off a distance and people sat on the doorsteps to hear a message and but the church at first the religious services were held in one of the old stores that had been vacated and the men got together and built seats just wide something and put workhorses they call them under and so Judge I.A. Bush, he was a judge, highly educated, you know, where Edwin and Estelle Baker lives out there, Laney, when you come, a big old two story home...

Interviewer: Yes ma'am.

Narrator: Where Edwin and Estelle Baker lived at this time, so he went to my father and he said, "Mr. Autry, if you will cut the trees into lumber, I will furnish the trees for you to cut lumber to build a church, a house of worship in Hinsonton." So my daddy did and he would take his men occasionally for half a day and they would work on the building of the church and it was done through volunteer work. There was no high paid carpenter or anything, but my daddy gave the land for the church. He also gave land adjoining it for a Methodist church were Denise and Joe McGalliard's house is now, but there were not enough Methodists to ever organize into a church. So my father went to the courthouse and redeemed whatever he had to do to get that land back in his name and he gave it to Dawson Autry. He was so sick and anyway, that one church has been there all these years but we worshipped in the old store until they got that and I'd like for you to bring this in, one of the deacons agreed to check the church and do whatever needed doing before it was time for the next worship service and they gave him a dollar a month, one dollar.

Interviewer: (laughs) For his checking on the church?

Narrator: Yes and it was everybody else's church same as it was his, you know.

Interviewer: Did Roosevelt, he died while the Depression was still...

Narrator: He was dead before we went to Warm Springs.

Interviewer: When he died, how did that affect the people because they had thought of him as helping them come out of this time of Depression?

Narrator: Well, I think alot of people thought the job was more strenuous than he had thought it would be or maybe he was dedicated enough if he gave his life for the benefit of all the these people with just that one something, electricity, so that we could have lights and heat or whatever. I think he was such a soldier, you might say, he would have said if it takes that I'm ready to die, you know. I think he would have given his, but the old polo had him before he ever went in office, you know, he was cripple.

Interviewer: How could you tell that, not only in Hinsonton but in like Pelham, that the Depression, you were starting to come out of the Depression like as far as your husband's occupation being a teacher? How could you tell that changes were beginning to come around?

Narrator: Well, at the strongest part of the Depression, the streets in Pelham would not be crowded with people and as we came around from under that terrible time, there would be Saturday afternoon and Saturday night until nine thirty and ten o'clock they didn't think about closing the stores at six on Saturday cause that was one of their busiest days and then too people were more able to go to town and when at the height of the Depression, people just didn't have the money to go and shop and do things, they did without and, but it was unbelievable how people learned to take advantage of like, like if I was the head of my house, mother, and had chickens, save those eggs and take them to town and sell them to the grocery store and you could get grocery items that you didn't have and pay for it with those eggs.

Interviewer: Exchange?

Narrator: Yes, that was frequently done and the farmers would take anything they had in there that they didn't have to have themselves, such as sugar cane, they would cut it down in the field and strip that fodder off of it, you know how it looks like corn, strip all that off of it, cut it up and take it to town to various stores and they'd have a big old barrel and stand those stalks down in there and sell that so much a stalk, one or if you wanted three, or a half a dozen, it was a certain price for one.

Interviewer: Yes ma'am. What about your husband? He was a teacher at this time. How could you tell, like as far as he was not getting paid so much during the Depression, he started, how did his pay change as he came out of the Depression?

Narrator: Well, I had learned to work, you know, and he did jobs that was available and we began to be more able to buy

decent clothes.

Interviewer: He started getting a regular paycheck now, didn't he?

Narrator: Well, he always got a check, Jana, but I mean that's the way he was paid. There was a board of education in Cotton made up of with men and there was a county board of education with the headquarters in the courthouse in Camilla and, but every community that had a school they had their own board of education and they saw to it that the needs were met and then what their school so much, so many people that paid taxes in to Hinsonton I'll say or Cotton, whatever, they failed to have enough to pay their teachers. The county board of education, from people's taxes and all that would supplement it to pay a certain amount a month and it was bad times, it was hard times, but thanks to Roosevelt he wanted everybody to have life and I think because he was such an afflicted person with that polo, he saw how difficult it was and if he hadn't been a man of money and his brothers and sister and all whoever his family were, they saw to it that he had what he needed and Mrs. Roosevelt, after they married and she started having children, of course, and of course. I know we don't want to put this in there, but I know right out there from Warm Springs, Macon, Milledgeville, up in there, in this cottage that President Roosevelt lived in when he was at Warm Springs. He had a lady friend and she would go there and spend the night with him and it finally got to where she stayed there just like it was her home and there was alot of ugly gossip about it, but I remember your Pa Pa, Stetson, said if that would give whatever, Roosevelt could do, if it give him initiative to carry on any sex life, you know and him so cripple sitting in a chair all the time or either lying on the bed, Pa said let him have her, but now there was a heap of folks who didn't want to venture out like Roosevelt was, to help us get over that Depression and there was alot of people who thought he was crazy, more or less it'd never happen, never, but it did. Whether that was the best for us or but it put a heap of poor people that were dependent, it gave them a chance, Jana. Some men in the Hinsonton area that I had never known to have to work especially, they had shovels and hose and picks and at that time they were putting on a crusade to get rid of mosquitos because people were having malaria and typhoid, all those fevers, but those men that you would have never dreamed about taking a shovel and a hoe and going and help dig those ditches to drain off those old waters that accumulate from some pond or another that get into there and couldn't go further because it was just, they dug ditches to run that filthy water off.

Interviewer: So the depression brought about brotherly love and everyone was willing to help one another and well I've gotten alot of information from you today. I just wanted to tell you thank you for letting me talk to you.

Narrator: You're welcome.